

Moravians Women's Association

Devotional Paper

March 2016

Messages from the Mountains

Mark Ch 9 v 2-9

Jesus took Peter, James and John up to the top of a high mountain where they shared a wonderful mountain top experience, know as the Transfiguration. It was a mountain top moment that they would remember for ever.

Have you ever been on a mountain top? Last year the daughter of a friend of mine climber Mt Kilimanjaro. Hearing her recount the experience was amazing. Sir Edmund Hilary conquered Mount Everest along with Sherpa Tenzing in 1953. The news of their successful expedition came through on the day of the Queen's Coronation. What a mountain top experience for both of them! I haven't climbed Everest but I did get to the top of Snowden during my college days and being "in the wilderness" during a visit to the Holy Land in 2005 certainly was a mountain top experience never to be forgotten. When visiting Jamaica in 1996, my husband and I stood with Br and Sr McOwat at Springfield and it felt like being on top of the world. It stirred wonderful emotions that are always in my memory and I'm sure you have mountain top experiences that you recall with pleasure.

I wonder how the disciples felt that day with Jesus. Possibly they were tired, out of breath and were happy to sit down. I also think they would have been confused and frightened. Here they were with their friend, Jesus, who they were just getting to know and love, when he starts talking about death and rising again. How did that fit into the picture? When Peter, James and John were up the mountain with Jesus they probably just wanted to stay there separated from everything else. So when Jesus changed and appeared "whiter than white" and they thought they were in the presence of Elijah and Moses they must have wanted to hold onto the experience for ever. But Jesus had different ideas! He shared God's glory with his friends not so they could stay there but so that they could remember it in future. Not so they could boast about it to their friends but so that it would be a useful experience and would act as encouragement in the days ahead. He knew what was ahead of them and they certainly would need help and encouragement during the low points of their lives when he was not with them.

During our lives we experience highs and lows – times when we feel we are on a mountain top and times when we feel as if we are living in a cave – when we are enjoying unrepeatabe events and times when we face really difficult situations. It is in the difficult times that we can look back and the good times help to bring us through. The lesson to be learned from this mountain top experience is two fold. Firstly that Jesus is seen to outshine Elijah and Moses and be the supreme servant of God and secondly that we like the disciples must learn to move on through our lives learning from each experience. We must not cling on but move forward in our church life and in our individual lives. We may not ever climb Everest or even Snowden but we can let that transforming light been seen by those around us. (Read Matthew Ch 5 v14)

For Discussion

1. What have been your mountain top experiences?
2. Did these experiences help you though the low points in your life? Diane Thornton